

Mr. METCALF. Madam Speaker, I do not have to remind this House about the fine work of our border patrol officers. They put their lives at risk every day to slow the flow of illegal drugs into this country and to keep our borders safe from dangerous aliens. We are all thankful to them for their efforts.

Due to the current inept management of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the INS, the jobs of these officers are made much, much more difficult. Last year, Congress appropriated enough money for the INS to hire and train 1,000 new border patrol agents. The agency has hired nowhere near that number, however, and has resorted to moving agents from our already shorthanded northwestern border to shore up its border patrol offices in Arizona. Nearly 10 percent of the field agents in Washington State have been temporarily assigned to the southern border. That is not what Congress intended. There were supposed to be more agents in Washington State, not less. INS management brags about the new sensor technology that has been developed to detect people who cross our northern border illegally, but what good is the technology if there is no one to catch the people that set off the sensors?

I agree that there are serious problems on the southern border. We all know that. That is why the INS was given so much money for the border patrol last year. INS management needs to do its job and hire more agents, instead of robbing from one shorthanded border to fill out another.

Last week, a Washington State trooper was shot and killed during a routine traffic stop. I feel this very deeply. My brother was a Washington State trooper for over 20 years. The main suspect in this killing is a 28-year-old Mexican national who had already been deported three times. This summer, he was already in jail on a cocaine delivery charge but was able to post bond and be let back out into the community. He should have been detained by the INS after posting bond but he was not because the border patrol agent who should have recognized him was somewhere in Arizona. This is tragic. This is sad. And this never should have happened. The INS needs to clean up its act.

#### ON INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, in the few minutes allocated to me this evening, I want to address one of the most significant issues this Congress faces this year, a subject worthy of hours of exploration, discussion and debate: the need to increase the Federal minimum wage.

Madam Speaker, I could talk about how the average American worker now

produces about 12 percent more in an hour's work than he or she did in 1989, but, after adjusting for inflation, that worker's wages have only increased 1.9 percent. But time does not permit us to examine this very basic question.

I could talk about how an increase in the minimum wage helps to convert low wage, dead-end jobs into decent jobs with wages to support a family, thereby reducing turnover and building worker loyalty and productivity. But I really do not have the time to do that, either.

We might speak about the role of the minimum wage in creating a truly national labor market and creating a level playing field for working men and women regardless of so-called State right-to-work laws and other anti-union legislation. We could look at the harm and distortions of our economy brought about by our failure to maintain the minimum wage. But that would take much more time than the few moments that I have this evening.

We could talk about how, without an increase, the real value of the minimum wage would fall to \$4.90 an hour by the year 2000 according to inflation projections by the Congressional Budget Office.

We could talk about how 59 percent of workers on minimum wage are women and how women desperately need an increase in the minimum wage to rectify growing female wage inequality.

We could talk about how African Americans make up 11.6 percent of the workforce but 15.1 percent of those affected by an increase in the minimum wage. How Hispanics make up 10.6 percent of the workforce but 17.4 percent of those affected by an increase in the minimum wage. We could talk about the need for justice for these working families.

And we could talk about the pain, the anguish, the agony, the frustration of 11.8 million workers, more than 10 percent of the workforce, who live on minimum wage, 504,000 workers in Illinois alone who try and survive on minimum wage dollars. But it would be impossible to adequately describe that pain, that anguish, that agony in just a few minutes.

We could explode the myth, the great bogey man, of those opposed to raising the minimum wage that increases in the minimum wage reduce the number of minimum wage jobs and hurt low-income workers, especially youth. The 1999 Levy Institute survey of small businesses and 60 years of other studies which focus on facts, not tired old dogmas, show, contrary to the common supposition that youth and students are hurt, minimum wage increases actually shift employment to them, especially in the fast food industry. As one commentator said in this regard, "Our facts trump your theories."

We could talk about applying minimum wage theories to TANF activities and the positive effects on families and public budgets. Or we could talk

about how our big cities, whose population of poverty is some 20 percent as opposed to 8 percent in suburban communities, are forced to bear a huge and disproportionate share of public costs of dealing with poverty, and how even an increase of \$1 an hour in the minimum wage would impact that burden.

Census numbers released in September show that while the poverty rates are declining, the number of full-time workers with incomes below the poverty line rose by 459,000 in 1998. The numbers show that more than one in every three black and Hispanic children remain poor. The numbers show that poor families are poorer on average than a few years ago.

Madam Speaker, we could talk for hours, but it is clear that even Sy Plukas knows what all of America knows and demands, that it is only right, it is only justice, it is only fair, it is in the interest of all America, it is essential, it is critical to act now, this month, to raise the minimum wage by at least \$1 per hour.

□ 1830

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KASICH. Madam Speaker, pursuant to Sec. 314 of the Congressional Budget Act, I hereby submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD revisions to the allocation for the House Committee on Appropriations pursuant to House Report 106-373 to reflect \$2,480,425,000 in additional new budget authority and \$0 in additional outlays for emergencies. This will increase the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations to \$564,314,425,000 in budget authority and \$597,532,000,000 in outlays for fiscal year 2000. This will increase the aggregate total to \$1,454,763,425,000 in budget authority and \$1,434,669,000,000 in outlays for fiscal year 2000.

As reported to the House, H.R. 2684, the conference report accompanying the bill making appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and independent agencies for fiscal year 2000, includes \$2,480,425,000 in budget authority and \$0 in outlays for emergencies.

These adjustments shall apply while the legislation is under consideration and shall take effect upon final enactment of the legislation. Questions may be directed to Art Sauer or Jim Bates at x6-7270.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. FOLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time reserved for my special order today. I am on the list for today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### INCREASING FUNDING FOR ALL DISEASES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.